

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 /093 W

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O R 261350Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9293

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 1320

LONDON FOR LAMBRAKIS PASS AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN

THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM SENT ACTION NEW DELHI

INFO CALCUTTA MADRAS FROM BOMBAY ON JAN 25,1974 IS

REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE

R 251100Z JAN 74

FM AMCONSUL BOMBAY

TO RUSBAE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 8628

INFO RUSBTA/AMCONSUL CALCUTTA 1536

RUSBAS/AMCONSUL MADRAS 1572

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOMBAY 0217

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PINT IN

SUBJ: LAW AND ORDER SITUATION GUJARAT

REF BOMBAY 0177

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1. GUJARAT, CONTINUES TO BE RACKED WITH VIOLENCE, WITH LOOTING OF

FOORGRAIN SHOPS, ARSON AND POLICE FIRINGS DAILY OCCURRENCES IN TOWN AND CITIES THROUGHOUT GUJARAT. OFFICIAL DEATH TOLL FOR APPROXIMATELY 16 DAY PERIOD OF DISTURBANCES HAS NOW RISEN TO 25 WITH 5 HAVING BEEN KILLED YESTERDAY INCLUDING A SUB-INSPECTOR OF POLICE AND CONSTABLE BY SNIPER FIRE IN AHMEDABAD. AS PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE IN ANTICIPATION GUJARAT STATEWIDE BANDH TODAY 25TH, A CURFEW HAS BEEN IMPOSED IN SOME 40 TOWNS AND CITIES AND CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE AND BSF UNITS HAVE BEEN DEPLOYED WITH LOCAL POLICE ELEMENTS AT VARIOUS POINTS THROUGHOUT STATE. THE ARMY HAS BEEN ALERTED. BANDH HAS BEEN CALLED BY "AUGUST 14 COMMITTEE OF WORKING CLASS PEOPLE" (REPRESENTS SOME 60 LEFTIST TRADE UNIONS) AND THE STUDENT NAVNIRMAN YUVAK SAMITI. AHMEDABAD'S TEXTILE WORKERS ARE NEITHER SUPPORTING NOR OPPOSING BANDH AND THE JANA SANGH IS NOT PARTICIPATING, OSTENSIBLY BECAUSE IT HAS ALREADY HAD ITS BANDH ON 18TH. COMMENT: IN OUR VIEW BANDH LIKELY BE NEAR TOTAL AND, WE WOULD EXPECT FAIR NUMBER OF VIOLENT INCIDENTS OCCUR.

2. THERE HAS BEEN A LESSENING OF FACTIONAL INFIGHTING WITHIN THE RULING CONGRESS IN GUJARAT FOLLOWING SHARMA'S REJECTION OF PRESIDENT'S RULE FOR STATE AND CHIEF MIN PATEL'S AGREEMENT TO INSTITUTE AN INQUIRY AGAINST FORMER CIVIL SUPPLIES AND FOOD MIN JHALA WHO IS FACING CHARGES OF CORRUPTION. WE WOULD CONSIDER THIS LULL TO BE A TEMPORARY PHENOMENON HOWEVER AND ONE REFLECTING FEAR OF PARTY DISCIPLINARY ACTION.

3. COMMENT: WHILE POLICE MEASURES HAVE SERVED CONTAIN POPULAR UNREST AND VIOLENCE THUS FAR, ROOT CAUSES OF UNREST AND VIOLENCE, NAMELY FOOD SHORTAGES AND RISING PRICES, HAVE NOT BEEN SATISFACTORILY DEALT WITH THUS FAR. UNLESS GOI IS ABLE PROVIDE ADEQUATE AND TIMELY FOODGRAIN ASSISTANCE TO GUJARAT, SITUATION IS NOT LIKELY RETURN TO NORMAL AND BLAMING JANA SANGH AS SHARMA DID FOR TROUBLES IN GUJARAT WILL HARDLY SUFFICE. AS MATTERS STAND IT LOOKS LIKE THE GUJARATIS WILL JUST HAVE TO TIGHTEN THEIR BELTS OR CONTINUE TO TAKE TO THE STREETS. THE RULING CONGRESS IN GUJARAT HOWEVER WILL SUFFER SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE AND DESERTIONS FROM THE PARTY HAVE ALREADY BEGUN THERE.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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